(b) No, Sir. Data Entry Operators are engaged on contract for specific project only and they have not been regularised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The engagement is for specific project only. Hence question of regularisation does not arise.

Opening of post offices

1670. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during the year 2002-03;

(b) how many new post offices are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during the above period; and

(c) how many post offices are proposed to be computerised in Karnataka during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) 275 new post offices are proposed to be opened during 2002-03. Opening of new post offices is subject to the norms based justification and availability of requisite resources.

(b) Out of these 275 new post offices, 10 post offices are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during 2002-03.

(c) Depending upon completion of procedures and availability of funds, 8 (eight) offices will be computerised in Karnataka during 2002-03.

Demand for reduction in licence fee

1671. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether private cellular operators have recently, demanded reduction of licence fee burden and permission to install adequate spectrum for superior service at lower costs;